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COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 7, 1974

Mr. William E. Colby Director, Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Colby:

PAT M. HOLT, CHIEF OF STAFF ARTHUR M. KUHL, CHIEF CLERK

I enclose a press release of December 6, 1973, announcing a joint investigation of warrantless wiretapping and electronic surveillance to be carried out by the Subcommittee on Surveillance of the Foreign Relations Committee, the Constitutional Rights Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee, and the Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure of the Judiciary Committee.

The purpose of this letter is to elicit your cooperation and that of the Central Intelligence Agency.

On September 18, 1973, the Foreign Relations Committee, by a vote of 17-0, adopted a motion as follows:

Resolved, that the Foreign Relations Committee pursuant to its oversight duties undertake a full examination of the use of electronic and other means of surveillance of American citizens in connection with alleged intelligence gathering or other activities related to the foreign policy and the areas of national policy over which this Committee has legislative responsibilities, to the end that more satisfactory guidelines and opportunity for more effective congressional oversight may be developed than those set forth in the letter of the Attorney General to Senator Fulbright dated September 12, 1973.

On September 28 a Subcommittee (Senators Muskie, Chairman, Pell, McGovern, Case, and Javits) was appointed to carry out this resolution.

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Meanwhile, the two Subcommittees of the Judiciary Committee mentioned above were also pursuing related aspects of the same general subject, and it was decided that the task could best be accomplished by proceeding jointly. The Surveillance Subcommittee on Foreign Relations, however, will have primary responsibility for the investigation as it relates to the foreign affairs agencies.

We would appreciate it if you would designate an officer of the Central Intelligence Agency as the focal point of contact and coordination.

Sincerely yours,

Edmund S. Muskie

Chairman, Subcommittee

on Surveillance

Enclosure